

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A hot-stamping foil tape cassette, comprising:
 - a hot-stamping foil tape transferred by pressure application together with a value-added medium to said value-added medium;
 - a windup reel for winding up said hot-stamping foil tape;
 - said a source reel on which said hot-stamping foil tape is wound, said windup and source reels being stored in a cassette case; and
 - a shutter;
 - said shutter, except at a time of hot-stamping transfer, being in a protective position that protects said hot-stamping foil tape;
 - said shutter at the time of hot-stamping transfer withdrawing to a withdrawal position that does not interfere with action of said hot-stamping transfer;
 - wherein, after hot-stamping, by said shutter, said hot-stamping foil tape can be peeled from said value-added medium.
2. (Currently Amended) A foil-peeling mechanism for a hot-stamping device, being provided with a hot-stamping foil tape cassette according to claim 1, and a cassette movement mechanism that makes said hot-stamping foil tape cassette come in contact with the value-added medium at the time of hot-stamping and together with this, after hot-stamping, withdrawing said hot-stamping foil tape cassette from said value-added medium,
 - wherein at the time of hot-stamping, said shutter in said hot-stamping foil tape cassette opens, and on the other hand, after hot-stamping, said shutter is closed in conjunction with withdrawal of said hot-stamping foil tape cassette from said value-added medium to peel hot-stamping foil tape from said value-added medium.
3. (Original) A foil-peeling mechanism in a hot-stamping device according to claim 2, wherein said cassette movement mechanism has a connection for connecting to said shutter, said shutter being opened and closed by action of said cassette movement mechanism.
4. (Currently Amended) A hot-stamping foil peeling method using a hot-stamping foil tape cassette according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:
 - making said hot-stamping foil tape cassette come in contact with the value-added medium at the time of hot-stamping;
 - opening the shutter in said hot-stamping foil tape cassette, after at the time of hot-stamping; and
 - while withdrawing the hot-stamping foil tape cassette from said value-added medium, closing the shutter to peel the hot-stamping foil tape from said value-added medium.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A hot-stamping foil tape cassette, said hot-stamping foil tape cassette that has stored in a cassette case hot-stamping foil tape transferred by pressure application together with a value-added medium to said value-added medium, said cassette being provided with The hot-stamping foil tape cassette according to claim 1, wherein said cassette is provided with~~ a non-contacting tag that records control information.

Claims 6-11 (Cancelled)

12. (New) A hot-stamping foil cassette, comprising:
a hot-stamping foil;
a carrier film carrying the hot-stamping foil to be pressure transferred to a value-added medium;
a windup reel for winding up the carrier film;
a source reel on which the carrier film is wound, the windup and source reels being stored in a cassette case; and
a shutter operable to be in a protective position that protects the hot-stamping foil being carried by the carrier film and to be in a withdrawal position that does not interfere with an action of hot-stamping;
wherein, after hot-stamping, the shutter is operable to peel the pressure transferred hot-stamping foil from the carrier film.

13. (New) The hot-stamping foil cassette according to claim 12, further comprising a cassette movement mechanism operable to make the cassette case come in contact with the value-added medium at the time of hot-stamping and after hot-stamping, withdraw the cassette case from the value-added medium,

wherein at the time of hot-stamping, the shutter opens, and after hot-stamping, the shutter is closed in conjunction with withdrawal of the cassette case from the value-added medium to peel the hot-stamping foil from the carrier film.

14. (New) The hot-stamping foil cassette according to claim 13, wherein the cassette movement mechanism has a connection for connecting to the shutter, the shutter being opened and closed by action of the cassette movement mechanism.

15. (New) The hot-stamping foil tape cassette according to claim 12, wherein:
at the time of hot-stamping, the shutter is opened and the cassette case comes in contact with the value-added medium;
after the hot-stamping, the cassette case is withdrawn from the value-added medium

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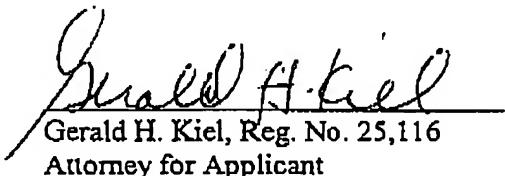
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while the shutter closes to peel the carrier film from the hot-stamping foil on the value-added medium.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald H. Kiel
Gerald H. Kiel, Reg. No. 25,116
Attorney for Applicant

Reed Smith LLP
599 Lexington Avenue, 29th Floor
New York, NY 10022
Tel. (212) 521-5400